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C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 001485

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV AND DS/IP/EAP, PACOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/18/2014

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: SMALL EXPLOSION NEAR RANGOON DISTRICT COURT: NO  
ONE INJURED

REF: RANGOON 815

Classified By: CDA a.i. Ronald K. McMullen for Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: A small explosion occurred early November 18 near the Rangoon district court. No one was hurt, making this incident reminiscent of the June 26 explosion at the Rangoon railway station (reftel). It appears the government is trying to justify tightened security measures as more post-Khin Nyunt purges go on behind closed doors. End summary.

[1](#)2. (SBU) A probable small improvised explosive device (IED) exploded at 0400 hours, November 18, near the Rangoon Western district court. No one was reported injured, and damages were limited to two windows and a small portion of the base of a wall. Authorities repaired the windows by mid-morning. Security was beefed up with police and members of the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA) around the court. Court cases continued as usual. However, security checks were tightened at the court's entrance, which is located one block behind the Embassy.

[1](#)3. (SBU) This is the second small IED that has exploded in Rangoon this year with no casualties: four IEDs exploded at the Rangoon Central Railway Station on June 26 but no one was reported hurt then either. There was also a small explosion reported on October 6 along the Thai-Burma border at Myawaddy; and another on November 3 at a village festival in Mon State.

[1](#)4. (SBU) The explosion this morning in Rangoon took place two days after the reported removal from office of twelve High or Supreme Court judges from Rangoon and Mandalay, including the forced retirement of a Supreme Court Justice, U Tun Shin. The latter was charged under the Emergency Provision Act and remanded at court. He was in deposed Prime Minister Khin Nyunt's National Intelligence Bureau before he was promoted to the bench. We also understand that Colonel San Pwint, previously in the Office of Military Intelligence (MI) under Khin Nyunt and one of the officials responsible for negotiations with ethnic groups, has been under interrogation in the district court.

[1](#)5. (C) Comment: This appears to be a case of self-provocation by the government to justify tightened security. If instigated by someone with more serious intent, the bomb would have likely been detonated during the middle of the day in a crowded location. End Comment.  
MCMULLEN